



The University of British Columbia
School of Library, Archival and Information Studies
LIBR 534 – Health Information Sources and Services
Winter Session, Term 2 – January 2010
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SEARCH ASSIGNMENT 1

Database searching in biomedicine

Date due: February 1st

Assignment Value: 20%

Objectives:

- To introduce basic searching in the major databases, Medline, Embase & Cinahl
- To acquaint you with controlled vocabularies in biomedical databases
- To review major user-interfaces (UI) and navigational issues
- To provide opportunities to answer clinical questions and formulate search strategies
- To distinguish between precision & recall and *optimization* (or finding a balance)

Instructions:

- Read the four (4) clinical questions.
- Based on the question, specify the databases you will search first, second and third.
- Tell me why you are searching in that order.
- List MeSH, Emtree or CINAHL headings, Boolean operators and limits
- Supplement your answers with *background information*; use *any* dictionary, handbook, classic textbook you wish. Cite any items you use with the 'Vancouver style' or ICMJE style (the same).
- Keep your submission to less than four pages

Clinical questions:

1. Is there any link between *Dupuytren's contracture* and *Raynaud's disease*? If possible, please search back before Oldmedline to 1940.
2. What risks or adverse events are linked to antiplatelet therapy in treating advanced cardiovascular disease? Limit results to randomized controlled trials and systematic reviews from 1990 to present.
3. What are the side effects associated with the H1N1 vaccine? Please update my search on adults only which goes until the end of August 2009.
4. Are the fluoride programs so popular in Canadian schools effective in preventing cavities?